

District III Advisory Board Minutes
May 7, 2008
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The District III Advisory Board meeting was held at 7 p.m. at the Wichita Water Center at 101 E Pawnee. Nine District Advisory Board members were in attendance; 16 City staff and seven members of the public were present.

Members Present

Teresa Cook
Charlotte Foster
Jim Gulick
Joann Hartig
Paula Hearn
John Kemp
Georgia Lambke
Billie Tucker
Bill Ward

Off. Claudale Cavanaugh, Patrol South
Off. Barry Gomes, Patrol South
Lt. Steve Kenney, Patrol South
Off. Sara Voyles, Patrol South
Det. Lenny Rose, WPD Investigations
Jess McNeely, Planning Dept.
Libby Albers, Environmental Services
Scott Wadle, Planning Dept.
Fire Chief Ron Blackwell,
Division Chief, Mike Menges, WFD
Capt. Darrell Schofield, WFD
Brady Bergman, WFD
Scott Kingrey, WFD
Frank Buck, WFD
Janet Johnson, Neighborhood Services

Members Absent

Judy Dillard
DeWayne Kitchen
Council Member Jim Skelton

Staff Present

Lt. Clark Wiemeyer, Patrol East

Guests

Listed on the last page

ORDER OF BUSINESS

At 7:02 p.m. **Pro Tem Bill Ward** called the meeting to order. The meeting minutes from April 2, 2008, were approved.

PUBLIC AGENDA

Scheduled items

No scheduled items.

Non-Scheduled items

No items.

STAFF REPORTS

Community Police Report

Lt. Clark Wiemeyer, Patrol East CP Supervisor, reported that after a three-month crime trend increase, crime dropped in April. During the first quarter of the year, he said they saw a lot of auto thefts (related to weather and leaving vehicles running and unattended) garage burglaries and ship lift cases. He also reported that Officer Steve Jerrell, 33 Beat, has been working with KAKE-TV doing crime prevention tips that air on Friday mornings. **Lt. Wiemeyer** said the Police Department

is focusing on gang enforcement and identifying gang members by the beat they live in. He also said there were several very successful clean-ups and projects in the District where neighborhoods and volunteers from the Eastminster church partnered. The areas included Planeview, Grandview Heights and Fabrique.

Lt. Steve Kenney, Patrol South CP Supervisor, reported Officer Diehl, 24 Beat, is addressing a crime trend of residential burglaries in the 2000 block area of S. Palisade. He said they are making entry through open doors and by cutting window screens. Police believe the suspect is an adult with a vehicle because they are taking everything from jewelry to big TV sets. Patrol South has been working a morals violations project on a weekly basis. They are currently working on security plans for Riverfest. **Lt. Kenney** said Eastminster Church volunteers also helped in the 23 and 24 beat areas cleaning up alleys.

Joann Hartig reported she is seeing a lot of pit bull dogs in the area of Main and Funston.

Officer Claudale Cavanaugh, Patrol South 26 Beat, said she has seen a decrease in crime in general, but an increase in graffiti. She said it's important that citizens call 911 if they see someone spraying graffiti. She also said that if possible, get a camera photo that she can use to help identify the suspects. **Officer Cavanaugh** is working on getting a gang presentation set up for the July South City meeting.

Officer Barry Gomes, Patrol South 28 Beat, reported things are pretty quiet in his beat with the exception of a neighborhood complaint at 31st and Wichita, which his team will be addressing.

Action: Receive and file.

NEW BUSINESS

Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan

Libby Albers, Environmental Services, presented the Arkansas River corridor Access Plan. The completion of the plan provides a general guideline and recommendations to the project partners for potential access point development within the city of Wichita and surrounding communities. Within the city of Wichita the plan identifies three recreational transitions for watercraft at the 21st Street "tubes," the 21st Street dam and the Lincoln Street dam. Two additional potential access points are identified as well at Herman Hill Park and Sim Park.

Currently there are no Capital Improvement Program (CIP) funds identified to execute any portion of the plan. This plan will be brought back to the City Council for future action in authorizing all or a portion of the plan to move forward with additional recreational opportunities as outlined in this report.

Bill Cather, 1920 S. Hillside, said he sometimes leads canoe trips on the Arkansas River for church groups and boy scouts, going all the way south to the Oklahoma line. He described all the different types of wildlife he has observed on these trips and said it is important to expose our youth to nature.

Charlotte Foster asked how many access sites the plan is proposing. **Albers** said in Wichita there are five existing sites and they are proposing five new sites. She went on to say this plan is a

vision, and there is no current funding for implementation. **Foster** said she would much rather see use of the Ark River than taking land away from ranchers near Grouse Creek. **Albers** said all of the proposed sites are on public property.

Joann Hartig wanted to know how much maintenance would be involved on the proposed bypass channel. **Albers** said she didn't know exactly, but that members of the project had been in contact with representatives from South Bend, Indiana, who have a bypass channel in their city. She went on to say that based on the design, she would anticipate it wouldn't be much.

Jim Gulick asked how much the five additional sites will cost. **Albers** said they don't have cost estimates, as this plan is simply a vision for the future, but that it would vary depending on if it's a primitive site or a primary site.

Teresa Cook asked if the project members have been working with the neighborhood associations. **Scott Wadle**, Planning Dept., said the project committee was formed as a result of Wichita Visioneering, after their survey revealed a community desire to have more access to the river. **Wadle** said he was aware that the South Central Neighborhood Improvement Plan also calls for more river access. **Cook** said she hopes the various entities can work together on this.

Bill Ward inquired if any additional low level dams are planned on the river. **Wadle** said the South Central Plan proposes another dam, but that the Ark River Access Plan only looked at existing infrastructure, not new.

Chris Collins, 1712 N. Charles, said he also had lead a number of canoe trips on the river and was prepared to present information to anyone who had objections to the plan, but no objections were voiced.

Cook (Hartig) made a motion to recommend approval of the Arkansas River Corridor Access Plan as a guideline for future access point development within the city of Wichita.

The motion passed 9-0.

Action: Recommended approval of the plan.

CON2008-06 Special Review for an existing off-site billboard sign which does not meet the required 300-foot separation from residential zoning. Request to increase the height of this legal non-conforming billboard by 10 feet, from 45 to 55 feet.

Jess McNeely, Planning Department, presented information on a request for a special review regarding a sign at 5327 E. Kellogg Drive. The applicant was New Western LC c/o Lindy Andeel (owner) and Art Stanfill (agent). The request pertained to an off-site advertising billboard sign that is a legal non-conforming billboard because it is 140 feet from residential zoning and residences southeast of the site, whereas the Wichita Sign Code requires a 300-foot separation from billboards to residential zoning and residences. The billboard is also legal non-conforming as it is currently 45 feet tall, and the sign code would limit this sign to 36 feet in height. The billboard is a 14 by 48 foot, or 672 square foot off-site advertising sign mounted above a commercial building (see the attached site plan and elevation provided by the agent). The two sided (east and west facing) billboard is located south of East Kellogg Drive, west of Beverly. This site is along the East Kellogg Expressway frontage between the Oliver Street overpass and the Edgemoor overpass.

McNeely told the DAB that the owner of this sign had already received an administrative adjustment from the Office of Central Inspection to switch from a bill board to an LED sign. As part of the adjustment, the owner was required to reduce the size of the sign, so they removed the skirting on the sign in order to meet that requirement.

McNeely also informed the DAB that this is the first special review of this nature since the sign code changed back in 2004. He said City staff didn't believe the additional 10' increase requested will significantly improve visibility. He pointed out that this is an off site advertising sign that is used to generate revenue by advertising for other businesses, other than the one where the sign is located. **McNeely** said staff is also very concerned about setting a precedence of routinely overriding the sign code.

Elena Ingle, 3608 Meadow Lane, asked if raising the sign would make the LED light illuminate more on the neighboring residences. **McNeely** said the LED side of the sign faces away from the nearest residences. **Ingle** said she would expect there would be a reflection of the illumination that would impact the neighborhood.

Georgia Lambke asked for clarification about what an off-site sign is and which business it is located at. **McNeely** explained that the sign flashes multiple panels; one of the panels is for the Scotch and Sirloin where the sign is located, but it also had many other panels that advertise other businesses.

Joann Hartig asked if approving this special review would create a domino effect and all the other businesses would be allowed to raise their signs. **McNeely** said it wouldn't happen automatically, the other businesses would have to apply for an adjustment, but that it certainly would set a precedent.

Teresa Cook wanted to know if the same person owned the Wichita Suites sign. **McNeely** said yes and the applicant could have avoided causing themselves this hardship by placing their signs differently.

Bill Ward asked if the sign were located on a property where the road goes below grade, would it make a difference? **McNeely** said no, the sign code only allows for portions where the road is elevated.

Jim Gulick said he is typically neutral on this type of issue, but if the applicant didn't care enough to show up, then why should he care.

Hearn (Hartig) made a motion to uphold the staff recommendation and recommend that the request be denied.

The motion passed 9-0.

Action: Recommended denial of the request.

File of Life Program and Fire Station #22

Fire Chief Ron Blackwell introduced a number of his staff who attended the meeting, and also passed out the File of Life packets to DAB members and citizens in the audience. He explained the

Fire Department partnered with local hospitals to produce the File of Life. The File of Life attaches to your refrigerator so in the event of a medical emergency, responders know where to locate vital medical information. The Chief also provided a DVD to DAB members titled “Protecting your family against Home Infernos.” He said people tend to assume that fires only happen to other people. He cited three incidents that recently occurred in Wichita. He said one woman was critically burned and remains in the hospital for simply being inattentive and doing something that she did on a daily basis – cooking. **Chief Blackwell** also said that smoking and alcohol can be a bad mix when it comes to fires. In two recent cases men who were smoking fell asleep and woke up to find their couch in fire. In both incidents, the victim failed to call 911 and instead tried to push the couch out of the house. He reminded everyone the importance of letting fire fighters fight fires, and for citizens to call 911 and seek safety.

Chief Blackwell reported that the City held a pre-bid conference this morning with six contractors attending. He said demolition of the structure on the selected site should begin any day. From the time they break ground, he said construction should take about 11 months. One of the features **Chief Blackwell** is very excited about is that it will have unique sleeping quarters that will allow for more privacy. He anticipates this will be a draw for attracting more female fire fighters.

Several DAB members had fire safety questions, which **Chief Blackwell** answered.

Billie Tucker asked if the WFD had considered naming the new stations after a fallen fire fighter. **Chief Blackwell** said no, they’ve been too busy building them to think about naming them.

Action: Receive and file.

BOARD AGENDA

Updates, Issues and Reports

DAB members reviewed the NUSA policy. **Joann Hartig** volunteered to represent District 3 at the conference. The DAB unanimously supported her attending.

Charlotte Foster reported Fabrique had a successful neighborhood clean up with volunteers from Eastminster Church.

Joann Hartig announced that City Council approved the funding for the Mt. Vernon Street construction.

Jim Gulick announced that Grandview Heights had a successful clean up.

John Kemp reported that K-15 will move their May meeting from the 26th to the 19th.

Georgia Lambke said South City will be meeting tomorrow.

Billie Tucker said things are going well in Hilltop and they are going to work with Community Housing Services to see if they can reduce the number of landlords and increase the number of homeowners in the neighborhood.

Bill Ward reported Meadowlark had a successful clean up and filled four packer trucks.

Action: Receive and file.

Adjournment

Meeting was adjourned.

The next regularly scheduled meeting for District Advisory Board III will be held at 7 p.m., June 4, 2008, at the Water Center at 101 E. Pawnee.

Respectfully submitted,

Janet Johnson,
Neighborhood Assistant – District III

Guests

Bill Cather	1920 S. Hillside
Chris Collins	1712 N. Charles
Elena Ingle	3608 Meadowlark
Claudia Lee	2826 Greenwood
Donna Thornton	2714 Southfork
Scott Blume	905 N. Cedar Park St.